

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 – 27 (previously canceled)

28. (currently amended) A system for managing a directory of published objects and removing nonfunctional objects, the directory maintained on a computer network, and a directory service for providing access to resources represented by corresponding objects in the directory of published objects, the system comprising:  
a pruning module including a module for testing if a specified object, from the directory of published objects, is accessible, a module for determining if the specified object is deleteable, wherein a list of orphaned objects is tested in accordance with a specifiable policy, wherein the specifiable policy monitors the specified object with a low priority thread to determine if the specified object is orphaned, and a module for testing if software hosting the specified object is capable of republishing the specified object;  
a domain controller hosting the pruning module and the directory of published objects; and  
a thread for executing the pruning module.

Claims 29 – 32 (previously canceled)

33. (canceled) The system of claim 28, wherein the specifiable policy reviews a status of the specified object at least two times prior to making a determination that the specified object is deletable.
34. (canceled) The system of claim 28, wherein the specifiable policy monitors a status of the specified object for a specifiable duration prior to making a determination that the specified object is deletable.
35. (canceled) The system of claim 28, wherein the specifiable policy monitors the specified object with a low priority thread to determine if the specified object is orphaned.
36. (canceled) The system of claim 28, wherein the specified object is accessed via a proxy.
37. (canceled) The system of claim 28, wherein the specified object is a printer object.
38. (canceled) The system of claim 28, wherein if there are no more objects to process in the list of orphaned objects, the pruner module sleeps for a specifiable period of time before resuming checking for orphaned objects.
39. (canceled) The system of claim 28, wherein the module for testing if a specified object, from the directory of published objects, is accessible, tests for valid references and/or attributes.

40. (currently amended) A method for managing a directory of published objects and removing nonfunctional objects, the directory maintained on a computer network, and providing a directory service for accessing resources represented by corresponding objects in the directory of published objects, the method comprising: pruning the published objects by testing if a specified object, from the directory of published objects, is accessible, determining if the specified object is deleteable, wherein a list of orphaned objects is tested in accordance with a specifiable policy, wherein the specifiable policy monitors the specified object with a low priority thread to determine if the specified object is orphaned, and testing if software hosting the specified object is capable of republishing the specified object; hosting, via a domain controller, the pruning of the published objects and the directory of published objects; and executing the pruning of the published objects by use of a thread.

41. (canceled) The method of claim 40, wherein the specifiable policy reviews a status of the specified object at least two times prior to making a determination that the specified object is deletable.

42. (canceled) The method of claim 40, wherein the specifiable policy monitors a status of the specified object for a specifiable duration prior to making a determination that the specified object is deletable.

43. (canceled) The method of claim 40, wherein the specifiable policy monitors the specified object with a low priority thread to determine if the specified object is orphaned.
44. (canceled) The method of claim 40, wherein the specified object is accessed via a proxy.
45. (canceled) The method of claim 40, wherein the specified object is a printer object.
46. (canceled) The method of claim 40, wherein if there are no more objects to process in the list of orphaned objects, the pruning further comprises sleeping for a specifiable period of time before resuming checking for orphaned objects.
47. (canceled) The method of claim 40, wherein the testing if a specified object, from the directory of published objects, is accessible, tests for valid references and/or attributes.
48. (canceled) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 40.